

of presenting a system still remains to be performed. They will again recur to the public schools of New York, believed to be better organized, conducted with more skill, and more amply sustained, than any schools of the kind in the world. They are believed to be better adapted to the condition of the people of this State. The act of 1825 is essentially the New York system, and the best that could be adopted for Maryland. It is to be regretted that for the most part since its passage it has slumbered on the statute book. On a careful examination it will be found fraught with great good; and if vigorously enforced will be highly beneficial to our State. The committee take great pleasure in recommending it to the consideration of the House, and of the people. That act and its various supplements form the best system of public instruction which the committee can devise. Where it has been tried it has been found amply successful. As an illustration of its beneficent influences the committee would call the attention of the House to Anne Arundel county where it has been carried into full operation. The committee have not been able to obtain statistical information showing its actual condition, and the annual numbers educated under it; but they have heard from all quarters what they presume is known to every member of the House, that the system with the various supplements specially enacted to suit their circumstances, is perfectly successful; and brings within the reach of every child an opportunity of acquiring a good education.

It is a matter much to be regretted that all the other counties had not in this respect followed the lead of Anne Arundel; and with the same degree of public spirit and philanthropy, adopted this benevolent scheme. If such had been the case we should before this have witnessed its good effects in the increased intelligence and virtue of the people. A large number of the counties declined accepting the terms of the law, and although some have since discovered its usefulness, many of them to this day reject it, and are now utterly destitute of any general system of instruction. In these counties their population are either utterly without schools, or only depend on the uncertain, expensive and inefficient means of instruction by country schools, conducted by private individuals, who in a majority of cases are wholly unfit for their station. In the bill which is herewith reported is a provision referring to